

1690. It is entitled Memoires Relating to the State of the Royal Navy of England for Ten Years Determined

December 1688.¹ Macaulay frequently refers to It, and terms Pepys ' the ablest man in the English Admiralty/ ²

After the Revolution the Admiralty was once more put in commission, as it had been from 1673 to 1684.

Under the commissioners of the Admiralty were the Navy Office, the Victualling Board, established in 1683, and a Transport Board, established in 1689. Ships were built and

repaired in the six great dockyards under the control of the Navy Office ; disabled seamen were pensioned from the Chatham Chest, or after 1696 provided for through

Greenwich Hospital. To ensure its proper working this system of administration required a strong and competent

Admiralty Board. Unhappily the Commissioners of the Admiralty came more and more to be politicians, without any practical knowledge of naval affairs, and often with no experience of administration. Pepys was removed at the Revolution and no secretary of equal ability replaced

him. Expert knowledge was supposed to be provided by the Commissioners of the Navy and other subordinates.

Under those conditions the administration of the navy fell into disorder. Macaulay lays the blame on a man whom he particularly detested rather than on the system to which

the maladministration was due.³ Arthur
Herbert, created
Earl of Torrington on June 15, 1689, was made
First Lord
of the Admiralty on March 8, 1689, and
resigned that post
on January 6, 1690. As he was at sea most of
the summer

¹1, 294 (lii). A reprint edited by Dr. J. R. Tanner was
published by the
Clarendon Press in 1906. His introduction should be
compared with vol. i
of the Catalogue of the Naval Manuscripts, pp. 65-98.

²1, 289 (iii) ; 440 (iv) ; III, 1106 (be).

³ IV, 1696-8 (xiv).